

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) decision to discontinue the Specialized Services for LGBTQ+ youth within the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in the coming 30 days.

This service was launched as a pilot program in September 2022 and expanded to full 24/7 availability by March 2023. Since then, it has supported over 1.3 million calls, texts, and chats and has averaged approximately 2,100 contacts each day as of February 2025. These numbers reflect the critical, ongoing demand for this targeted support. To a young person feeling alone and scared, 988 is truly a lifeline

When Congress established the 988 Lifeline, signed into law by President Trump during his first term, we intended it to be a resource for any American experiencing mental distress. The specialized services it provides to individuals with a higher risk of suicidality, such as LGBTQ+ youth and veterans, are especially vital to provide high-risk groups with custom support. Discontinuing this service would be a dangerous step backward and would send a devastating message to LGBTQ+ young people across the country, that their needs are not seen, their lives are not valued, and that support will not be there in their darkest hour. We cannot allow that to happen.

We respectfully urge you to reverse this decision and ensure that the necessary personnel, infrastructure, and funding remain in place to sustain this lifesaving service. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued commitment to protecting the health and well-being of all American families.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress